UNITED
NATIONS

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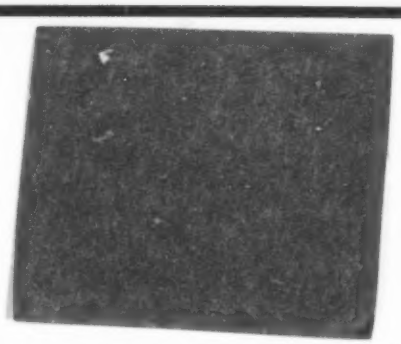
Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/6
5 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Item 3 of the provisional agenda



COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THEMATIC ISSUES RELATING TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its decision 1996/120 of 29 August 1996, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities decided to entrust two of its members, Mr. José Bengoa and Mr. Mustafa Mehedi, with the preparation, without financial implications, of a joint working paper on article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, together with two members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Ivan Garvalov and Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali, to be submitted to the two bodies at their respective sessions in August 1997.

2. Taking into account: (i) that the two representatives of the Sub-Commission and the two representatives of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had not been able to meet in order to discuss their respective contributions and agree on modalities about their joint working paper, and (ii) that the deadline for the submission of documents for the Sub-Commission could not be extended beyond the end of May 1997, the Chairman of the forty-eighth session of the Sub-Commission suggested, on 30 May 1997, the following course of action:

(a) The four appointed experts should plan to meet in early August to discuss their respective parts of the joint working paper.

(b) As a result of this meeting and discussion, a progress report on the implementation of Sub-Commission decision 1996/120 concerning article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination will be issued as an in-session document of both the fifty-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the forty-ninth session of the Sub-Commission.

(c) The preparation of the joint working paper of the four experts concerned would therefore be postponed, and it will be submitted in its final version to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its fifty-second session and the Sub-Commission at its fiftieth session.